



Employment Subgroup Meeting Minutes January 14, 2009

Items Relevant to Other Workgroups

- *PIMIT Group:* Workgroup members discussed the need to use existing data in their actions, and raised the possibility of working with the PIMIT group to get a sense of what data are available.
- *Community Building and Communications Group:* The employment subgroup is pursuing an action that will build strategies for outreach to homeless and at-risk individuals on workforce development resources.

Attendees

Michele Walker
Alysia Babcock
Galyn Barnum
Diane Bonds
Nancy Hewat
Jeff Kaplow
David McConnell

Discussion Items

Review Action Plan

Action 1: Review employment resources and successful strategies

- A binder from the Center for Civil Justice in Saginaw provides a good list of resources, and could serve as a starting point for this action. PPA will provide this information to the group.
 - Group members felt that case managers may not have adequate information about the range of services that assist with employment or re-employment.
 - Members suggested that address and ID requirements are potential regulatory barriers the group may wish to address in this action
- Galyn Barnum and Michele Walker will work on this action. They plan to solicit information through their personal and professional networks, and then develop a plan for the next steps in the action.
 - A reasonable timeframe would be six to eight weeks. One outcome from this action could be for providers to use evidence-based practices for the at-risk population to help them avoid homelessness.

Action 2: Expand and strengthen provider networks

- Some communities have strong provider networks, while other communities lack connections among providers. In Kalamazoo, for example, the 2-1-1 hotline acts as a one-stop for all human service activities. In other parts of the state, networks are built through occasional meetings, which are useful but infrequent.

- There are standards and quality issues related to provider networks. Providers must feel comfortable that organizations that they refer clients to will offer a strong standard of service.
- In some areas, faith-based organizations are less interconnected.
- This action might be an opportunity to look systematically at what strategies are successful in Michigan and other states, and how they can be applied to other areas.
- Susan Hornfeld is the lead for this action, but is not present. The group will seek an update from Susan at the next meeting.
- There are really two parts to this action. The first is to examine ideas and strategies for strengthening networks. The second is to identify issues or potential obstacles to successfully implementing these strategies.

Action 3: Develop strategies for outreach to homeless and at-risk individuals

- Members discussed several strategies that have been effective in Michigan and elsewhere, including Illinois. It was suggested that the experiences of front-line staff in regards to what works and what does not would be particularly useful in recommendations to the DRT.
- Camille Price and Alysia Babcock are the leads for this action, but they have not yet connected to discuss it.
- It probably will take one to two months to identify target audiences.
- A short-term outcome for this action might be a list of strategies for each target audience. In the longer term, an outcome would be that people would know where to go and from whom to seek help for employment services.

Action 4: Develop strategies for overcoming transportation barriers

- Members described some strategies already at work in Michigan, including 2-1-1 on-the-go in Detroit.
- Barriers include the lack of connections between different transportation providers in a region, public transportation times that do not allow people to get to second and third shifts, public transportation routes that do not connect with employers, and the lack of public transportation in rural communities where a taxi is not available or would be prohibitively expensive.
- Diane Bonds volunteered for this action. We will seek others to join this action via e-mail and at the next meeting.
- Gathering information on transportation barriers and soliciting input from other workgroup members and professional networks should take about one to two months.

Other Discussion Items

- We need to focus on measures of success. Workgroup members may want to connect with the measurement workgroup to see what data are already being collected, which may inform some of these strategies. Sending a recommendation to the DRT that is supported by data will be more powerful than just sending our observations.
- We need to build participation in this workgroup. All workgroup members should be involved with at least one task.

Tasks Completed

- Finalized action plan.

- Assigned tasks and set timelines.

Tasks Assigned

- *All:* Provide ideas for best-practices called for in current actions to lead members. Contact lead workgroup members to join actions.
- *Galyn:* Begin work on action 1.
- *Alysia:* Contact Camille and begin work on action 3.
- *Diane:* Begin work on action 4.
- *Susan:* Begin work on action 3.
- *Camille:* Contact Alysia and begin work on action 3.
- *Michele:* Begin work on action 1.
- *Jeff:* Send out meeting minutes and updated action plan. Send out binder from the Center for Civil Justice.

Next Meeting

- Wednesday, February 11, 2009 2-3:30
 - Future meetings are the second Wednesday of the month at 2 pm. Please mark your calendars.